

Foodborne Diseases and Conditions Designated as Notifiable at the National Level – United States 2000

In the United States, requirements for reporting diseases and conditions are mandated by state and territorial laws and/or regulations. However, physicians are highly encouraged to report foodborne illness that they may encounter in the event that an outbreak situation may be present. Reporting will facilitate the tracking of the outbreak and in fact, the case identified may even be the sentinel case!

Differences exist between states and territories as to which diseases and conditions are reportable. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collaborate on which diseases and conditions are designated as nationally notifiable. Details on specific state requirements are located at <http://www.cste.org/reporting%20requirements.htm>. This information is also available by contacting CSTE at:

The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
Suite 303 – 2872 Woodcock Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30341
Phone: 770 458-3811

Notifiable Bacterial Foodborne Diseases and Conditions

Botulism
Brucellosis
Cholera
Escherichia coli O157:H7
Hemolytic uremic syndrome, post-diarrheal
Salmonellosis
Shigellosis
Typhoid fever

Notifiable Viral Foodborne Diseases and Conditions

Hepatitis A

Notifiable Parasitic Foodborne Diseases and Conditions

Cryptosporidiosis
Cyclosporiasis
Trichinosis

References

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. Available at:
<http://www.cste.org/reporting%20requirements.htm>.
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. 1999; 48(21):447-448. Available at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm4821a4.htm>.

Toll-free Information Phone Numbers

USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline: 800 535-4555
FDA Safe Food Hotline: 888 SAFE-FOOD (723-3366)
CDC Voice Information System: 888 CDC-FAXX (232-3299)

Diagnosis and Management of Foodborne Illnesses

A Primer for Physicians

Foodborne Illnesses Table: Viral Agents

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American Medical Association
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition,
Food and Drug Administration
Food Safety and Inspection Service,
US Department of Agriculture

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Foodborne Illnesses (Viral)

Etiology	Incubation Period	Signs and Symptoms	Duration of Illness	Associated Foods	Laboratory Testing	Treatment
Hepatitis A	30 days average (15-50 days)	Diarrhea; dark urine; jaundice; and flu-like symptoms, (ie, fever, headache, nausea, and abdominal pain).	Variable, 2 weeks-3 months	Shellfish harvested from contaminated waters, raw produce, uncooked foods and cooked foods that are not reheated after contact with infected food handler.	Increase in ALT, bilirubin. Positive IgM and anti-hepatitis A antibodies.	Supportive care. Prevention with immunization.
Norwalk-like viruses	24-48 hrs	Nausea, vomiting, watery, large-volume diarrhea; fever rare.	24-60 hrs	Poorly cooked shellfish; ready-to-eat foods touched by infected food workers; salads, sandwiches, ice, cookies, fruit.	Clinical diagnosis, negative bacterial cultures, >fourfold increase in antibody titers of Norwalk antibodies, acute and convalescent, special viral assays in reference lab. Stool is negative for WBCs.	Supportive care. Bismuth sulfate.
Rotavirus	1-3 days	Vomiting, watery diarrhea, low-grade fever. Temporary lactose intolerance may occur. Infants and children, elderly, and immunocompromised are especially vulnerable.	4-8 days	Fecally contaminated foods. Ready-to-eat foods touched by infected food workers (salads, fruits).	Identification of virus in stool via immunoassay.	Supportive care. Severe diarrhea may require fluid and electrolyte replacement.
Other viral agents (astroviruses, calciviruses, adenoviruses, parvoviruses)	10-70 hrs	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, malaise, abdominal pain, headache, fever.	2-9 days	Fecally contaminated foods. Ready-to-eat foods touched by infected food workers. Some shellfish.	Identification of the virus in early acute stool samples. Serology.	Supportive care, usually mild, self-limiting.
Etiology	Incubation Period	Signs and Symptoms	Duration of Illness	Associated Foods	Laboratory Testing	Treatment

Please call the state health department for more information on specific foodborne illnesses.
These telephone numbers are available at: <http://www2.cdc.gov/mmwr/international/relres.html>.

See the reverse side for information hotlines and list of notifiable diseases.